

U.S. Army Military History Institute
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Korean War Era Service Survey Questionnaire

PLEASE NOTE, IF YOU NEED MORE ROOM TO FULLY ANSWER A QUESTION, USE THE CONTINUATION SHEET AT THE LAST PAGE AND NUMBER EACH CONTINUED RESPONSE TO CORRESPOND TO THE QUESTION. FEEL FREE TO ATTACH AS MANY CONTINUATION SHEETS AS YOU NEED.

ARMY SERVICE (KOREAN WAR) QUESTIONNAIRE

PART I - GENERAL MILITARY SERVICE

1. Name: _____ Highest rank or grade held: _____
Present Address: _____ Apartment: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Co/Trp/Btry/ you served in: _____ Commanded by: _____
Of Battalion: _____ Commanded by: _____
Of Regiment: _____ Commanded by: _____
Of Division: _____ Commanded by: _____
2. a. Enlistment date: _____ Age: _____ Length of Service: _____
b. Place of enlistment: _____
c. Previous occupation? How useful was it to you in the Army? _____

d. If you were a WWII veteran, how did you feel about being recalled to duty for Korea? _____

e. If not recalled, how and why did you join the service? _____

f. What were your initial reactions when entering military service? _____

g. Please describe the local enlistment or draft process with which you were involved. _____

h. If you served in WWII, how had that experience prepared you for subsequent service in Korea? _____

3. a. Describe the circumstances in which you first heard of the attack on South Korea. _____

b. What was your reaction to that attack? _____

4. a. Where was your training conducted? _____

b. In what specialties were you trained? _____

c. Were you trained in first aid, signaling, radio, or the use of any special equipment? If so, what kind? _____

d.(1) Did you apply for Ranger, Paratrooper, or other voluntary additional training? If so, what kind? _____

(2) Why did you seek such training? _____

(3) What were your experiences while undergoing such special training? _____

e.(1) If you entered an Officers' training program, how were you selected for it? _____

(2) What were your experiences while undergoing such training? _____

f. How well did your training prepare you for your service in Korea? _____

g. What further training, if any, did you receive in Korea? _____

5. At what posts were you stationed during your stateside service? _____

6. If you were shown any troop information films or given any lectures on why the U.S. was involved in Korea, what was your reaction to them? _____

7. a. What were your opinions of the equipment, clothing, and rations you were issued? _____

b. How adequate were they for the climate and weather conditions you encountered? _____

c. How responsive were the supply services to your unit's needs? _____

8. a. What was your opinion of the weapons you saw or used in the service? _____

b. How reliable were they? _____

9. a. What did you think of the quality of military leadership while you were in the service? _____

b. How did officers commissioned through various means (service academies, ROTC, OCS, National Guard, and battlefield promotions) compare? _____

c. How did your officers in Korea who had served in WWII compare with those who had not served in that earlier conflict? _____

d. Who were the "real" leaders - officers, noncoms, or enlisted men? Please explain. _____

e. How often did senior officers visit your company/battalion? Describe such visits. _____

f. Please describe instances of particularly good or bad leadership. _____

g. Please recount any cases of soldier violence directed against officers. _____

10. a. What did you think of the discipline at the time (lax, moderate, fair, strict, harsh)? Please comment. _____

b. Please recount any particular punishments for breaches of discipline. _____

c. What did you think about military courts of justice? _____

d. If you had served in WWII, do you regard the military justice system in that war as more fair or less fair than in the Korean War? Please explain. _____

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11. Were there any problems caused by the integration of Black and White soldiers into the same units? Explain. _____
- _____
- _____
12. a. If there was any desertion in your unit, what caused it? _____
- _____
- b. How much theft, if any, was there in your unit or other units? _____
- _____
13. a. What forms of off-duty recreation were common? _____
- _____
- b. What was your opinion of Special Services (USO shows, movies, reading material, personal education opportunities)? _____
- _____
14. How did you and your comrades get along with civilians in the U.S.? _____
- _____
15. Describe the health of your unit and the adequacy of medical care. _____
- _____
16. a. Was drinking a problem in your unit? If so, how were the beverages obtained? _____
- _____
- b. Was drug use a problem in your unit? If so, which drugs and how were they obtained? _____
- _____
17. Was there much gambling? If so, what types? _____
- _____
18. What military slang words or phrases were popular during your military service?

PART II - OVERSEAS SERVICE

19. When you first learned you would go overseas, what was your reaction? _____

20. a. What difficulties, if any, did your unit experience in preparing to move overseas? _____

b. At what point in your movement overseas did you learn your real destination?

21. a. Please identify your port of embarkation: _____

b. Please identify the name of your transport: _____

c. Please identify your port of arrival: _____

d. Please describe your travel experiences (by railroad, plane, truck, or ship):

22. What information, if any, did the Army give you about South Korea? _____

23. What were your first impressions of service abroad? _____

24. a. How did you and your comrades get along with civilians in Korea before, during and after hostilities? _____

b.(1) How did you and your comrades get along with civilians in Japan? _____

b.(2) How, if at all, did your experiences in Japan during the Korean War affect your opinions of Japan which you formed during WWII? _____

25. Was there much fraternizing with local women? _____

26. Please describe any looting by soldiers of which you are aware. _____

27. a. How was the morale of your unit? (Consider such things as mail from home, living conditions, general homesickness, etc.) _____

b. What effect did combat have on morale? _____

c. What factors helped improve morale? _____

d. What factors contributed to a decline in morale? _____

e. Were you aware of domestic U.S. opposition to the war? If so, what was your reaction to such opposition? _____

f. (1) What enemy propaganda, if any, did you see or hear? _____

(2) How did you or your unit react to it? _____

28. a. If you were sent forward as an individual replacement into a unit already at or near the front, what was your reaction on first joining that unit? _____

b. How did the veterans receive you? _____

29. If you remained with your original unit, how did you and your fellow veterans feel about individual American replacements who later joined your unit? _____

30. How effective were the individual American replacements in combat? _____

31. a. Did you know or observe any media war correspondents? Which ones and under what circumstances? _____

b. What did you think of wartime civilian newspaper, magazine or radio coverage of the war and of your unit? _____

c. Did you receive and read Army news publications such as Stars and Stripes or your unit newspaper? If so, which ones? _____

d. What did you think of them? _____

PART III - COMBAT SERVICE

32. a. Did you take part in and combat action? If so, where, when, and against whom? (North Koreans, Chinese)? _____

b. Please describe your "baptism of fire" and your reaction to that experience.

c. How effective was the fire support your unit received from other combat arms (infantry, armor, artillery), from the air, and from naval gunfire? _____

d. Please describe a "typical" day when your unit was committed to the front lines. _____

e. If you ever came under enemy air attack, please describe the circumstances and your reaction to that attack. _____

33. How would you characterize your unit's combat performance? Was it the result of leadership, discipline, unit camaraderie and cohesion, individual courage or fear, or other factors? Please explain. _____

34. Please describe your experience dealing with winter warfare (frost, weapon problems, etc.). _____

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35. a. If you were ever wounded in action, please recount the circumstances. _____
-
-
- b. Did you personally experience or know of others who experienced "shell shock" or psychological stress in combat? Please explain. _____
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-
- c. How effective was medical care at the front and behind the lines? _____
-
-
- d. If you rejoined your unit after being wounded, how did you feel about again going into combat? _____
-
-
- e. If you were unable to rejoin your unit, could you perform light military duty? If so what and where? _____
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36. Did you personally experience or know of others killed or injured as a result of "friendly" fire? Please explain. _____
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-
37. Military historian SLA Marshall stated that only a small number of U.S. troops on the front line actually fired their weapons during a fire fight. How accurately does his statement apply to your unit? _____
-
-
38. Did you ever participate in joint operations with a sister service? Please explain. _____

39. a. Did any KATUSA individual replacements serve in your company or battalion? ____
b. Were they already with your unit when you joined? ____
c. What proportion of your unit consisted of KATUSAs? ____
d. What special procedures, if any, were adopted to merge KATUSAs into your unit?

- e. How effective were KATUSAs as soldiers and why? ____

- f. How much contact did you have with them? What were your opinions of them? ____

- g. How well did they and U.S. soldiers get along? ____

40. a. Did your unit ever serve with a ROK unit? If so, when, where, and which ones?

- b. What special procedures, if any, were used to facilitate operating with ROK units? ____

- c. How effective were they as soldiers and why? How, if at all, did their effectiveness change over the course of your contact with them? ____

- d. Even if not serving with a ROK unit, did you encounter individual ROK soldiers? If so, where and why? ____

e. How well did ROK soldiers and U.S. soldiers get along? _____

41. a. Did you ever work with non-ROK Allies (British, French, Greek, Turk, etc.)?

If so, when, where, and which ones? _____

b. What special measures, if any, were used to facilitate operating with Allied units? _____

c. How effective were the Allied units and why? _____

d. What were your opinions of the Allied units? _____

e. How well did Allied soldiers and U.S. soldiers get along? _____

42. a. Did you ever work with Allied Korean guerrillas? If so, when, where, and why?

b. What special procedures, if any, were used to facilitate operating with guerrillas? _____

c. How effective were the guerrillas and why? _____

d. What were your opinions of the guerrillas? _____

e. How well did guerrillas and U.S. soldiers get along? _____

43. Please describe a "typical" day in reserve when your unit was not committed to the front lines. _____

44. Please recount your experiences, if any, in the gathering of intelligence, (Consider activities as scouting, interrogating prisoners, patrolling, etc.)

45. a. How did you and your comrades regard enemy troops (North Korean, Chinese, Russian, others) as fighters? _____

b. If you encountered any enemy North Korean guerrilla forces, how did they compare with enemy regular forces? _____

c. How well-trained, well-led, and well-armed did the enemy seem to be? _____

d. How effective were their weapons? _____

e. How, if at all, did your original opinion of enemy soldiers change after you encountered them in battle? _____

46. If you participated in the defense of Pusan in the summer of 1950, please describe your feelings as the enemy moved toward the city. _____

47. If you took part in the Inchon or Wonsan landings, describe your feelings just before and just after H-Hour. _____

48. If you took part in the Allied offensive in the autumn of 1950, describe your feelings as you swept through North Korea? _____

49. If you were in Korea in the fall of 1950, please describe your reaction on first learning of the Chinese Communist intervention. _____

50. If you were involved in any big retrograde movements, how well did your unit perform? _____

51. a. Were you ever a prisoner of war? If so, when and where were you captured?
[If not, please go to Question 52] _____

b. How were you treated by the soldiers who captured you? _____

c. Where were you held? _____

d. How were you treated by the prison guards? _____

e. How long were you a POW? _____

f. Did your previous military training prepare you for prison life? _____

g. What factors influenced morale in the POW camp? _____

h. Please describe your experiences in captivity, including any escape attempts.

i. How and when were you liberated? _____

j. If the Communists tried to make POWs in your camp defect, what factors caused POWs to resist or to defect? _____

52. a. Did you capture any enemy prisoners? If so, please describe the circumstances.
[If not, please go to Question 53] _____

b. How were enemy prisoners treated by U.S. forces? _____

c. What training did you receive in regard to handling enemy POWs? _____

d. How adequate was that training? _____

e. How, if at all, did your contact with enemy POWs affect your view of that enemy? _____

53. Were you involved in any operations behind enemy lines? Please explain. _____

54. What were your views at the time and now on the relief of General MacArthur? _____

55. How did general Ridgway , as Eighth Army Commander, affect the morale or combat effectiveness of you and your unit? _____

56. If you were in Korea in 1952-1953, what impact did the U.S. Presidential campaign/election of Eisenhower have on your unit? (morale, expectations, etc.)

57. a. What were your and your unit's reactions to the cease fire? _____

b. How did truce talks affect morale? _____

58. a. the U.S. civilian leadership made a deliberate decision to conduct a limited war. How did you feel while serving in Korea and how do you feel now about:

(1) The decision not to bomb Manchuria? _____

(2) The decision to avoid a confrontation with the USSR? _____

(3) The decision not to use nuclear weapons? _____

b. What rumors, if any, did you hear about the possible use of nuclear weapons?

c. Prior to the end of 1950 how concerned, if at all, were you about possible Chinese intervention? _____

d. How concerned, if at all, were you about possible Russian intervention? _____

59. If you helped or assisted to establish Civil Affairs governments, describe your experiences. _____

60. How were local civilians treated by American and other Allied soldiers? _____

61. How were refugees treated by American and other Allied soldiers? _____

62. a. How did the personnel rotation system affect morale and discipline in your unit? _____

b. What efforts were made to maintain your unit's morale and discipline after the end of hostilities? _____

63. a. What awards and decorations did you receive? _____

b. In your opinion, how fairly were awards and decorations distributed? _____

64. Please describe your welcome home to the United States. _____

65. a. How long did you remain in service after the end of hostilities? _____

b. Why did you choose to remain in military service or to leave the service? _____

c. When and where were you discharged? _____

PART V - POSTWAR EXPERIENCES

66. a. What did you do after you were discharged? _____

b. How, if at all, were your military skills or military education transferrable to civilian life? _____

c. Please describe the ease or difficulty with which you readapted to civilian life and the influence your overall military experience had on that readjustment.

d. (1) Before the war, had you graduated from high school? ____ When? _____

(2) If you went to college or trade school under the GI Bill after the war, please name the school: _____

dates attended: _____ degrees: _____

67. What were your expectations of civilian life upon leaving service? (Consider such things as post-war America, GI benefits, educational and career opportunities, marriage, and family life.) _____

68. a. If you joined the National Guard or Reserves after the war, why did you do so?

b. How soon after the war did you join and for how long did you belong? _____

c. Please identify your Guard or Reserve unit. _____

d. Were you ever called up for active service? _____

e. If yes, when were you called up, for how long, and with what unit? _____

69. a. Please name any national or unit veteran's group(s) to which you have belonged. _____

b. How soon after the war did you join such association(s). _____

c. If you still maintain membership, please explain why you have remained. _____

d. If you have dropped membership in any such association, please explain why. _____

e. What does your veterans' association(s) mean to you? _____

70. With whom do you feel most comfortable discussing your wartime experiences? Why?

71. If you have read any histories, articles, or other postwar writings on campaigns in which you participated, what is your opinion as to their accuracy? _____

72. a. What were your expectations at the end of the war on prospects for world stability? _____

b. What were your expectations at the end of the war as to America's place and influence in the world? _____

c. To what extent have those expectations been realized over the ensuing decades?

[illegible]
